Promotion of health tourism

2945. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to pitch for co-branding exercise alongwith premium Indian hotel zones and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to give medical tourism the much needed boost;

(b) whether any action plan has been prepared for this purpose;

(c) whether the Ministry propose to promote health tourism along with Incredible India Campaign; and

(d) if so, what are the other strategies that Government propose to promote health tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Tourism have formed a Task Force, headed by Secretary (Health) and senior officials of the Ministries concerned and experts in the medical field, with a view to promoting India as a Health Destination for persons across the globe so as to gainfully utilize the health care expertise and infrastructure available in the country.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Tourism has decided to promote and market India as a Healthcare destination through collaterals/print/electronic and internet media under the Ministry of Tourism's "Incredible India Campaign".

Assistance for tourism projects in Andhra Pradesh

2946. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released any assistance for tourism projects to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh during the last one year;

(b) if so, the names of the projects;

(c) by when the said projects are likely to be completed; and

(d) the amount spent on these projects so far and by when remaining amount is likely to be made available to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 2004-05 Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 2827.69 lakhs for the foHowing projects for the State of Andhra Pradesh:—

1. Development of Bhadrachalam, Khammam as tourist Destination.
2. Celebration of Kuchipudi festival
3. Celebration of Lumbini Festival
4. Southern India Tourist Train-Feasibility Report
5. Sea Cruise between Visakhapatnam-Port Blair-Chennai-Feasibility Report.
6. Taramati Baradari Cultural Complex-Feasibility Report.
7. Development of Village Shri Kalahasti, Distt. Chittor.
8. Integrated Development of Kurnool Tourism Circuit.
9. Integrated Development of Tourism Circuit-Hyderabad-Nalgonda-Khammam.
10. Destination Development of Bhavani Island, Krishna District.
11. Taramati Baradari Cultural Complex.
12. Rural Tourism-Village Pochampalli.
13. Rural Tourism-Village Shri kalahasti.
14. Rural Tourism-Village Chinchinada.
15. Rural Tourism-Development of Purttaparthi.

(c) and (d) Implementation/execution of the projects is the responsibility of the State Government. However, the normal implementation schedule of the projects varies from eighteen to thirty

six months. Further instalments are released on receipt of utilization and completion certificate alongwith other documents required as per guidelines.

Promotion of tourism in tribal areas

†2947. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the plans of the Central Government for promoting tourism in the country;

(b) the amount provided to the State Governments, State-Wise, during the last three years under the same;

(c) the amount out of the said amount provided for promoting tourism in tribal areas; and

(d) the names of tribal areas of Chhattisgarh and the amount provided for development of tourism in such areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Plans of the Ministry of Tourism for promoting tourism in the country is pursued through upgradation of tourist infrastructure to the world standards by assisting the State Government/U.Ts. under its various schemes, alongwith stretegic marketing initiatives which are aimed at positioning India as a favoured destination in the world.

. (b) and (c) The Central financial assistance provided to the State/ UTs. during the last three years is placed at Statement. This includes funding for promotion/development in the tribal areas also [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question 2934 part (a)]

(d) A list of projects sanctioned for development of tourism in the State of Chhattisgarh including tribal areas is placed at Statement.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.